



Breaking Point

Suzy Spencer

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One day, Andrea Yates was a loving mother. The next, the nation was shocked by the death of her five innocent children...

The 911 call that shocked the country. "I just killed my children." Why were they killed?

On June 20, 2001, in a middle-class Houston suburb, Andrea Yates and her husband Russell, a NASA engineer, prepared for the routine week-day ahead. But before the morning was over, tragedy would strike the quiet family and turn the day into a nightmare. Shortly before 10 a.m., Andrea calmly summoned the police with a grim confession...

One by one, Andrea Yates' children, ages 6 months to 7 years, had been drowned in their bathtub. No one who knew Andrea could picture the devoted mother capable of such an unbelievable crime or imagine the terror in the eyes of her trusting children. As their father struggled between overwhelming grief and loyalty to his imprisoned wife, an outraged nation struggled with an unfathomable question...

Breaking Point provides a harrowing portrait of the suffocating darkness at the heart of one all-American family, and exposes the private demons that pushed a mother over the edge.

With 8 pages of photographs.

Breaking Point Details

Date : Published February 18th 2002 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780312983093

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Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Breaking Point for online ebook

LaDene Mayville says

A well-written book about a very tragic murder of innocent children. It's hard to give this story any higher ratings due to the true events that happened; but yet it helps to try to understand why a mother would methodically murder all of her children. Very sad story.

Tara Brock says

I would say 3.5 stars is fair. The facts are well researched and a very good additional read, but it seemed to be poorly laid out. I was wondering if she was ever going to tie certain parts together and why some parts were in there at all. Terrifying in its frank look at mental illness and the price that was paid.

Bethany says

I'll admit I picked this one up out of morbid fascination for the crime. I knew it would be factual without being sensationalized. It was still so sad, but after reading this you realize how mentally ill Andrea Yates was. The middle to the end text is pretty dry- court proceedings and descriptions doctor's notes.

I'm giving it 3 stars because I learned something new about mental illness.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

An oddly structured walk through the Andrea Yates case. I didn't care much for how it flowed, and I'm uncertain why certain sections were included, but I did find it terrifying and fascinating to watch the events unfold. If you're of a certain age, you remember the Yates case. A loving mother, stricken with Post Partum-Depression and Psychosis, drowned her five children in the bathtub. The media around the case was a mess, with her husband going on national television and many, many people not fully understanding just how devastating PPD and PPP can be. What's terrifying about people not knowing about the mental health issues the case brought to light was the fact that this case occurred in 2001. Since then--partially thanks to the Yates case--lawyers, police, and mental health professionals have learned more about post partum than they've ever known before, but it's shocking to read a book about a case so recent and see how easily it was disregarded.

Ashley says

#

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FS: "The Houston, Texas, police officer eased his turquoise blue squad car up to the middle-class, Spanish-style house at the corner of Beachcomber and Sea Lark."

LS: "And he walked around the young woman whose hips twitched like those of a belly dancer draped behind her veil."

Reva Friedel says

This book was a truly heartbreaking account of the Andrea Yates case. The book was very vivid and well written. A couple places during the trial seemed to drag a bit, but overall it was worth it. I will say though that this crime was 100000% preventable based on this reading. Andrea Yates was failed by the medical community and her husband. She never should have been left alone with those children. The details in this book are sometimes hard to stomach but if it can prevent this from every happening again, that would be enough.

Jlsimon says

This is a powerful story. It is heartbreaking. This book describes the crime and trial of Andrea Yates. This book got 3 stars for the following reasons.

1. A lot of research went into this book - A strong plus.
2. The material is well organized, and well written - another strong plus.
3. I got this book as an audio and the narrator leaves something to be desired. Every time she says the word "children" she does it with a stabbing force that makes you feel the jab, it's a detraction.
4. Ms. Spencer does not seem to be able to keep her personal feelings out of the book. For example: her dislike of Rusty Yates comes through. There is absolutely no proof that Russell Yates was actually a domineering husband, but the insinuation was there at the time of the news coverage and Spencer presents that material with what seems to be a bias in that direction. Truth be told, we don't know what went on inside that home between husband and wife. It's not fair to attack this man when he lost his whole family in a day. It's easy to judge his behaviors as callous, but we don't really know that. We only know he is very very bad at acting the way we think he should given the gravity of his loss.

So those are my plus and minus points. I would still recommend this book to individuals who are looking at women's health, women's issues, religious significance in family life, and examples of psychosis.

Violet Skye says

Absolutely Heartbreaking

I knew nothing about this case before starting this book, I couldn't understand how any mother could of done something like this, but as I read on and on it became obvious that what this poor woman needed was help, not punishment. Reading what her life was like it almost seems as though it was a perfect storm brewing, she had no escape route and obviously didn't feel she even had someone that she could talk to, until everything boiled over in one awful morning, thanks to a Doctor who failed her terribly, if anything should be held up to

the medical world as a case of what happens when they forget their Hippocratic Oath Of First Do NO harm, then surely this would be it.

I cannot imagine any punishment anyone could think up, that could possibly be worse than the world she now lives in, medicated, alone for the most part and one would imagine lots of memories, grief & guilt, those that make it past the medicinal brick wall at any rate.

I'll admit that I cried at the beginning of this book, and at the end, and I've read some horrid horrid crime books, but this is just beyond perception in the sane world we all are lucky enough to reside in.

On the book itself, it's my 2nd by this author and I plan on starting a 3rd one tomorrow, the writing is very good, goes into just enough detail without overwhelming the reader with too much back story, and if the next follows in tradition, this author takes you into the courtroom and out the other side with the results, which isn't always done, but something I like as a reader, I can't stand sudden ended books where the author just wraps it all up suddenly. If you like true crime, then you'll love this book.

♥ Marlene♥ says

on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 I wrote:

I have read more then half but I have to say I am very disappointed.I do not like the way it was written.You do not get any reliable information. It is mostly hear say. I discovered this book was written in a hurry and finished before the trial was doneThat's why I have bought another book on the Yates case with much better reviews. Are You There Alone?: The Unspeakable Crime of Andrea YatesI will wait till I receive that one, read it, then finish this book and then I will sell this one, because I need to earn some money.

Update September 2-2010: (guess I never sold it cause it is still on my shelf) ;)
and looking on another site even once I'd read all of it I was still not liking it.

Cynthia says

This is a book about Andrea Yates and goes through the criminal trial. I love books that have to do with court cases so unless you are similar to me in that respect, you wouldn't enjoy it. I was annoyed when I finished the book because it didn't even cover her actual trial, only her competency hearing. I had to go online to find out what happened!

Sasha Sierra says

A lot of research went into this book but the focus is way too much on the pre-trial events and not enough to the trial/appeal - as though the appeal was just an afterthought.

Jwjohnsen says

Another one of those rare books to which I assigned a negative rating in my personal book journal. A real downer.

Cynthia says

A page turner! I had no idea the life Andrea Yates lead up to the tragic drowning of her kids. I found the book very interesting. I would have given it more stars if it didn't end as soon as it did...it ended before the capital murder trial. It left me sympathetic towards her, her husband, and of course, those children.

Laura says

This is the first case of a true crime book where I came across on the side of not wanting the criminal to go to jail. Knowing so much of what it is like to suffer from depression and the like and having been treated in the hospital for mental health issues, I could feel for Andrea. I also know what it is like to have someone close to you tell you you can work your way out of it. I believe she needed help, not jail or the death penalty. I am glad to see that the jury agreed in the end.

Becca Ritchie says

Book was good. Fascinating. The last couple chapters were slow going.
